

REMARKS

The Official Action dated May 19, 2006 has been carefully considered. Consideration of the amendments and remarks presented herein and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested. Applicants appreciate the Examiner allowing Claims 15 and 29 and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 8 and 22.

Claims 3-6, 8-15, 18-20 and 22-29 remain in the present application. Claims 3-5, 8-13, 18-19, 22-23 and 25-28 have been amended herein for clarification purposes without restricting claim scope. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Claims 1, 7, 16 and 21 have been cancelled by present amendment without prejudice. Accordingly, it is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, and entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3-14, 16, 18-21 and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Beach et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,172) in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 4,504,313). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion and traverse the same, the present amendments are believed to render the same moot. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 16 and Claims 8 and 22 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent Claims 1 and 16 respectively and any intervening claims. As such, it is believed that Claims 8 and 22 and any claims depending thereon, as presently amended, are allowable.

It is believed that the above amendments and remarks represent a complete response to the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and as such, place the present application having claims 3-6, 8-15, 18-20 and 22-29 in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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